

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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R 201220Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3580

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJ: YAMANI ON THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE

REF : JIDDA 3579

1. IN THE COURSE OF TWO LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH YAMANI ON THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE, YAMANI CAME UP WITH NO RPT NO NEW IDEAS. YAMANI'S CONSTANT RESPONSE TO EVERY PROBE BY THE AMBASSADOR WAS THET THE SECRETARY PROMISED HIM NEW IDEAS AND HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THEM.

2. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR EUGENE BIRD SPENT OVER FIVE HOURS WITH ABD AL-HADY TAHER, GOVERNOR OF PETROMIN, WHO ATTENDED THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING. HE THOUGHT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE SAUDIS WOULD FIND PRACTICAL TO SUPPORT IN THE WAY OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORMAT; HE REDUCED THIS TO A PAPER AND SHOWED IT TO TAHER. TAHER EVIDENTLY SHOWED IT TO YAMANI WHO REACTED VERY STRONGLY, AS TAHER SENT AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO THE AMBASSADOR DISCLAIMING ANY RESPONSIBILITY

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FOR THE PAPER. WE ARE DISAPPOINTMENT BUT NOT SURPRISED. IT IS

TYPICAL OF YAMANI.

3. IN ALMOST ALL OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OIL COMPANIES HE HAS FOLLOWED THIS TECHNIQUE. HE HAS A GENERAL IDEAN, IN THE CASE OF THE OIL COMPANIES IT WAS PARTICIPATION; IN THE CURRENT CASE, IT IS THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE. BUT HE ALWAYS LEAVES IT UP TO OTHER TO FILL IN THE DETAILS. HE THEN ACCEPTS THOSE ASPECTS HE LIKES AND DEBATES THOSE HE DOESN'T, USUALLY THE LATTER.

4. THE SAUDIS ARE SPREAD RATHER THIN AND PERHAPS WE SHOULD NOT ASK THEM TO DO MUCH MAJOR OR IMAGINATIVE THINKING FOR US. IF WE COME UP WITH IDEAS ON THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE (OR ANYTHING ELSE), YAMANI CAN BE EXPECTED TO REACT TO THEM. WE STILL COULD HOPE THAT SOME REASONABLE SOLUTION, NOT TOO FAR FROM OUR ORIGINAL IDEAS, COULD BE WORKED OUT.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, MEETINGS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA03580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0668
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabgoa.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JIDDA 3579
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YAMANI ON THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, SA, US, (YAMANI, AHMAD ZAKI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006